



**Connecticut  
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System



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TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. SODERMAN  
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
and YANKEE GAS SERVICES COMPANY  
Energy & Technology Committee—March 16, 2010

**H. B. No. 5507 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS IN THE RETAIL  
ELECTRICITY MARKET.**

This proposed bill would eliminate the requirement that electric distribution companies maintain a referral service or offer to send bills for competitive electric suppliers and to amend definitions and statutes related to electric suppliers, aggregators and brokers. ***We support portions of this bill.***

We support the elimination of the existing requirements regarding our mandated communication about competitive suppliers when they contact the company. This effort is time consuming for our customer service representatives, and diverts their attention and time from other important matters, thereby slowing response times. Further, we have received comments from some customers that they do not wish to be forced to listen to this mandated communication before they can proceed with the business they want to transact with the companies.

With about 90% of large customers, 50% of medium customers, and nearly 20% of residential customers taking competitive supply, it appears that this promotional activity needs to continue.

With regard to elimination of billing services being provided by electric distribution companies to electric suppliers, we do not support this provision at this time. However, we previously reported that we do not charge licensed competitive suppliers for the cost of billing (recall the hearing on March 4, 2010 on HB 5365). We note that competitive suppliers have indicated an apparent willingness to support payment of the cost of billing at that hearing.

While current law permits electric distribution companies to charge competitive suppliers, the DPUC has ruled that, until billing becomes a competitive service, they will not permit utilities from charging a fee for such service to licensed suppliers (Docket Nos. 98-01-02 RE02 and 98-06-17).



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It may be appropriate to amend this bill (or another bill) to clarify that electric distribution companies can charge licensed suppliers for billing.

To facilitate such amendment, we offer the following suggested language:

Sec. x. Subsection (c) of section 16-244i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

“(c) Each electric distribution company shall continue to provide metering, billing and collection services, except that, on and after the effective date of the regulations adopted pursuant to section 16-245d, which allow an electric supplier to provide direct billing and collection services for electric generation services and related federally mandated congestion costs that such supplier provides to its customers that use a demand meter or have a maximum demand of not less than five hundred kilowatts and that choose to receive a bill directly from their electric supplier, an electric distribution company shall not provide such billing and collection services for such customers. The department shall determine billing and metering protocols and any appropriate cost-sharing allocations among electric distribution companies and electric suppliers, **provided that the department shall approve charges from the electric distribution companies for the cost of billing to electric suppliers regardless of whether such services are offered competitively, and further provided that electric distribution companies shall be permitted to collect the full cost of billing services.** Notwithstanding an electric supplier's right, in accordance with the general statutes, to terminate its contract with a customer for the provision of generation service by reason of the customer's nonpayment of the charges directly billed by the supplier to the customer, an electric supplier shall not disconnect electric service to the customer or otherwise terminate the physical delivery of electricity to customers directly billed by the electric supplier.”

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this bill.